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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

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In re the Application of:

Yuichiro Shindo et al.

Application No.:

Corresponding International Filing No.:

PCT/JP2003/010251

Filed: Herewith

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SULFATE AND METHOD

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page two of this paper.

Remarks begin on page three of this paper.